NOTABLE AUSTRALIAN EDITORS AND JOURNALISTS

Some Early Sydney, Brisbane and Gympie Pressmen

PART 2

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(Read at a meeting of the Society on 24 February 1972.)

Tonight I want to tell you about some bygone Queensland Pressmen, and I do not think I can begin better than by referring to a clever journalist and a colourful figure in Brisbane in the 'eighties and 'nineties of last century. His name was Nehemiah Bartley, and it is perpetuated in Brisbane's geography in Bartley's Hill. To Nehemiah Bartley, we owe a graphic and drolly quaint picture of Brisbane in the latter half of the last century.

Nehemiah Bartley was a colourful, genial and kindly character.

Mounted on his ambling horse, Nehemiah was a familiar sight in the streets of Brisbane, in the days when Ascot and Clayfield still were more or less "bush" and when he built an expensive and handsome house on the crest of Bartley's Hill, behind Toorak Hill.

LONELY BARTLEY'S FOLLY

The house was so lonely and isolated that townspeople of the day dubbed it Bartley's Folly. The old house has long since disappeared, but the name still clings to the neighbourhood. The gorge between the hill and Toorak Hill was said to be haunted and it was the resort of vagabonds and doubtful characters. It was also reputed to be haunted by the ghost of a convict escapee. Anyone courageous enough to build in the neighbourhood was ridiculed by the town wiseacres as a fit companion for Bartley and his "Folly".

But the old man, who was a clever journalist and wrote biographical and topical articles for the *Courier* and the *Queenslander* went on his way serenely, unperturbed by malicious gossip and "old wives' tales."

Another celebrated character of Bartley's day was Judge Blake, who also rode a horse to and from his home to the Supreme Court, then in Queen Street, somewhere near the

present site of Allan and Stark's. The Judge, when duly mounted in front of his Chambers, was wont to crack his whip and yell: "Wullie! Wullie!" until a diminutive urchin appeared and received the stentorian command: "Ye young divil! Pull down th' leg o' me trousers!" This portion of his nether garments duly adjusted, His Honour rode home in stately dignity, as befits a man of substance, both in avoirdupois and legal dignity.

WROTE BOOK ON THE PIONEERS

Bartley was born in May 1830. He was 64 years of age when he died on Tuesday, 10 July 1894, at Richmond House, The Domain, Sydney. He had left Brisbane early in March for a visit to Sydney on business associated with the production of his new book on the *Pioneers of Queensland.*[1]

Forty-five years earlier, in 1849, he had first landed in Tasmania. An active, adventurous young Englishman, one of his earliest acts on reaching his new home in Tasmania was the ascent of Mount Wellington (4,165 feet in Southern Tasmania). Mount Wellington lies behind and to the west of Hobart, which spreads across its foothills. The summit commands an extensive view of the valley and estuary of the Derwent, the mountain ranges to the west, the Huon River area to the south and all the south-east. Snow sometimes lies on Mount Wellington for six months of the year.[2]

VOYAGE TO CALIFORNIA

Before Bartley settled down to Australian life, he made a voyage to California with a cargo of timber houses and shop

1. His obituary notice appeared in the *Queenslander* on 14 July 1894.

2. William Bligh was apparently the first to sight the mountain—in 1788—and the navigators, Bass and Flinders, the first to examine it, and Bass climbed some of the way up it. Robert Brown, the botanist, reached the summit in February 1804. Robert Brown (1773-1855), pioneer botanist, a Scot, had studied medicine at Edinburgh University, and in 1795 joined the British Army as a surgeon. On 12 December 1800, Sir Joseph Banks, with whom he had corresponded on botanical subjects, offered him the post of naturalist aboard the *Investigator,* in which Matthew Flinders explored the coasts of Australia. Brown accepted the offer, and on the arrival of the *Investigator* at King George Sound in December 1801, Brown began his 3½ years' intensive botanizing around the coasts of Australia. He collected approximately 3,400 species, of which more than 2,000 were new to science—a remarkable achievement. When Flinders left for England in the *Porpoise* in June 1803, he took a great many of Brown's collections with him, and all—except for a few boxes of seeds—were lost when the *Porpoise* was wrecked. Brown himself and his draughtsman, Ferdinand Bauer, remained in Australia until May 1805, visiting the islands in Bass Strait, the Tasmanian settlements at Port Dalrymple and Hobart, and the valleys of the Hawkesbury, Hunter, and Williams. He reached England again on 12 October 1805, in the *Investigator.* From 1806 to 1810, he was engaged in working up the tremendous store of material he had gathered in Australia, and in 1810, he published his *Prodromus Florae Novae Hollandiae,* which was described by Sir William Jackson Hooker (1785-1865), director of the Royal Botanical Gardens at Kew, as "the greatest botanical work that has ever appeared." Brown succeeded Dryander as librarian to Sir Joseph Banks, and on the death of Banks (1820) inherited his herbarium and library. These collections were later transferred to the British Museum and in 1827 he became keeper of the Museum's botanical department. In 1835 his title was altered to that of "Keeper of the Banksian Botanical Collections and Under Librarian of the Museum."

fronts, pianos and pots, visiting the island of Tahiti on the way. After completing his business in San Francisco, he returned to Tasmania. In 1851 he crossed over to Melbourne. He had not been there long, when gold was discovered at Bathurst,[3] and he was on the way thither to gain his first experience of the Australian bush, which he loved so well.

Nehemiah Bartley was not one of the lucky diggers—the best day's work of his party of nine yielded only £14. He sold out and returned to Sydney to join his brother in a prospecting expedition. He walked 300 miles there and back to the Turon in 10 days, with his brother, but they made a bare living. He returned to Sydney to accept the position of a teller in the Bank of New South Wales. That was in 1852.

OVERLANDED WITH SHEEP

In the following year, he undertook a long overlanding trip with sheep from Dubbo to Paika, on the Murrumbidgee. After spending some months at Paika, he reached Sydney again at the close of 1853. Early in the following year, Bartley first set foot in what in 1859 became the new Colony of Queensland. He saw a great deal of the country, as he was employed as a commercial traveller and agent in the region of Moreton Bay, doing the rounds of the Darling Downs and Burnett districts every six weeks or so.

Bartley wrote a great deal for the *Courier* and the *Queenslander* in the 1890's.

In one of his articles in the *Queenslander* he recalled that in 1853 the Brisbane *Courier* was edited by William Wilkes-Bartley, spelt the name without an "e". He described Wilkes as "a racy writer who had a holy horror of High Church parsons, one of whom refused to read the burial service over Wilkes's little girl (died of scarlet fever) on the ground that he attended Wesleyan Chapel."

THE SQUATTERS' PAPER

Sylvester Doig edited the *Moreton Bay Free Press,* the squatters' newspaper, which was the rival of the *Courier.* There was then, he reminded *Courier* readers of the day, no newspaper either in Ipswich or on the Darling Downs, and there was no other newspaper nearer than the *Maitland Mercury,* New South Wales, one of the oldest provincial

3. The progress of Bathurst was slow until after 1851, when gold was discovered at Summer Hill Creek, about 30 miles to the north-west. In the same year a nugget weighing 106lb. was found in an outcrop of quartz by an aboriginal employed on Dr. Kerr's property at Turon. News of the discovery of gold brought thousands of prospectors—and also bushrangers, who included Gardiner, Gilbert Hall, Burke, O'Meally, and Vane.

James Swan, a printer employed in Sydney on Dr. Lang's *Colonist*, took a small press and some type to Brisbane, and on June 20, 1846, the *Moreton Bay Courier* (now the *Courier-Mail*) was printed on it in the garret of a building at the corner of what are now Queen and Albert Streets.

newspapers in Australia. It succeeded the first country newspaper on the mainland, the *Hunter River Gazette*, which was established at Maitland in 1841. The *Maitland Mercury* was founded in January 1843 by Richard Jones (who had arrived in 1838 and had worked on the Sydney *Monitor*), and Thomas W. Tucker. The *Mercury* remains the oldest country newspaper in Australia.

IPSWICH'S FIRST NEWSPAPER

In 1855, Ipswich started a newspaper under the Bays Brothers, and Bartley tells us that comic sketches appeared at the time from the pen of Lieutenant Nicoll, no doubt one

of the smart young officers of the Brisbane garrison. A spree of 1858 at an Ipswich hotel set forth in verse how

Three Benedicts of furious mien
Were foremost in the fray;
Two bachelors of aspect mild
By them were led astray!

And the ballad went on to say that—

Not to be beat, they brewed their punch
In Jack Blank's new hat,
Made spatchcock[4] *of the parrot green,*
And then clean shaved the cat!

It was a week before the race ball, and as they passed her door, it is reported that they heard a young lady from the Darling Downs talking in her sleep at 2 a.m.—

As they passed the maiden's door,
She murmured in her sleep:
"Mind! Nothing under twenty yards,
And make the flounces deep."

"Which", commented our Nehemiah, "goes to prove that the damsels of 1858 were very much like those of later eras." Separation (1859) soon followed and newspapers multiplied. John Kent,[5] formerly of the Commissariat Department, was, said Bartley, at one time—he landed here about 1840—in a position analogous to the Government Resident in Brisbane (Bartley was certainly in error here), but in the late 1850's he edited the Ipswich newspaper, and was a pungent writer, in the style of Thaddeus O'Kane.

Reference will be made to Thaddeus O'Kane in a later paper.

Nehemiah Bartley further chronicled the fact that when Sir George Bowen first landed, Solicitor Chubb, of Ipswich, published an *Ode of Welcome* to him, which drew from Kent a tart comment on the needless cruelty of administering an emetic to a recently seasick man. "When the first Upper House was gazetted in 1860," Nehemiah went on, "Kent prefaced a terrific letter, and followed a list of them with the line—

'And the boldest held his breath for a time'—from Campbell's *Battle of the Baltic."*

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4. Webster's Dictionary says: Perhaps for despatch-cock (*despatch* meaning haste) or for *spitstuck*—SPITCHCOCK: A fowl killed, and immediately broiled, for some sudden occasion.

5. See Appendix for career of John Kent.

PUGH A TRENCHANT WRITER

Bartley recorded that T. P. Pugh was a trenchant political writer. When he edited the *Courier,* an attempt was made by the Tory party to prosecute and crush him. Searle (John Clarke Searle) then appeared upon the scene, and writing under the name of "William Nutts", soon gave the public a proof of his comic powers. He was especially happy in his poetic delineations of the feud between Judge Lutwyche and the Colonial Secretary, Herbert, in one of which the latter chaffs the Judge on being "sacked" for meddling with politics, which evoked from Alfred James Peter Lutwyche the couplet

The subtle wiles of your revengeful crew,
Misguided youth, deprived me of my "screw."

Nehemiah Bartley remembered one evening when Judge Lutwyche was on circuit, and they were alone after dinner. Bartley made bold to ask His Honour how he liked Searle's latest skit. The judge laughed heartily, and said that he enjoyed it "amazingly", especially the line

Ye gods! My wrath assuage!

which he proceeded to recite with heroic intonation. It was supposed to be spoken in reply to some of Herbert's cruel chaff. Judge Lutwyche, commented Bartley, always was manly enough to take a joke in good part. Searle afterwards came out with a direct parody on *Poppy Hopkins,* a music hall skit of the period—

Herbert: *Well, my ancient portly buffer,*
How do you do-oo?

Lutwyche: *All serene, and up to snuff-oh!*
So are not you-oo; so are not you-oo!

Herbert: *If you don't mind your p's and q's, Sir,*
We'll dock your screw-ooh, we'll dock your screw-ooh!

Lutwyche: *To vote it now, you daren't refuse, Sir,*
Of thousands-two-ooh, of thousands two-ooh!

Herbert and Lutwyche were enthusiastic prize poultry breeders, and met on common friendly ground in the halls where black Spaniards and grey Dorkings competed, and which wound up with a reconciliation scene, to which a chorus—to the same tune—was sung by Herbert and Lutwyche in a duet—

Let's go fe-ed!
And poultry bre-ed!

MEMBERS LAMPOONED

Searle was irresistible, said Bartley, and Walter Cooper blossomed out with his comic sketches of early Queensland members of Parliament, many of whom he lampooned in print under borrowed names. He was versatile, and he gave a good imitation of Captain Feez in *Come where my love lies dreaming,* picked up at Rockhampton in 1863. When Searle went to Sydney, he made enemies by his very epigrammatic summing up of the people who "saved their souls in Pitt Street, and their bodies in King Street"—alluding to the chapel in one place and the Bankruptcy Court in the other one.

George Hall, who wrote under the pen-name of *The Bohemian,* was a man whom it was a treat to hear in some of Artemus Ward's sketches.[6] He duly put the accent in the right place, never laughed himself, but made everybody else do it very much.

Bohm was another newspaper man, recorded Bartley, whom one always met at the betting meetings before the races. He and a certain lawyer's clerk were admirers of the fair daughter of an Ipswich publican. Bohm married her; the other one killed himself.

"NAPOLEON" JONES

D. F. (*Napoleon*) Jones (editor) was at the *Courier* in 1864, and wrote many a racy article, Bartley tells us, a notable essay being a trip to Gympie in 1867. In 1863, L. J. Byrne was the Brisbane correspondent of a number of Victorian newspapers.

D. F. Jones was called *Napoleon* Jones from his habit of trimming his moustache and beard in the manner of Louis Napoleon, the second Emperor of the French—Napoleon III, nephew of Napoleon Bonaparte—he who was defeated with his army at the fortress of Sedan in the Franco-Prussian War of 1870-71.

PRINCIPAL HANSARD REPORTER

D. F. Jones (David Frederick Tudor Jones, to give him his full name), while in Brisbane, maintained a fashionable style out of doors, "worthy", D.W. comments, "of the potentate he was supposed to resemble." Eventually he joined the Queensland Public Service becoming later Principal *Hansard* Reporter. *Hansard* was established in 1864. Responsible government had been granted five years earlier (1859). However, the foundation of the Parliamentary

6. See Appendix for reference to Artemus Ward, the notable American humorist.

reporting staff actually dated from 1860. In that year Charles Haynes Barlee and Arthur E. Deighton were appointed shorthand writers. Long Parliamentary reports were published by the *Courier* in those early years when Queensland was proud of having its very own Parliament. The reports frequently went to the length of seven or eight columns. When Parliament decided to have its own *Hansard,* reporters were to "be present at each sitting to take notes of the debates, such notes to be kept for transcription till the recess, it being understood, however, that they would be available for reference whenever required."

In order "to afford the shorthand writers every assistance in furnishing an accurate and complete record of the debates", members were "invited to revise the reports of their speeches in the public print (the newspapers) to which they may attach the most accuracy, and to supply the shorthand writers with notices of all errata or important omissions."

Jones succeeded Charles Haynes Barlee in 1867 when he left the *Courier,* and when William Senior resigned as *Hansard* chief in 1881, Jones became his successor from April 1 of that year, and held the position until his death on 6 October 1892.

John Gilligan was a notable early *Hansard* shorthand reporter. He had been employed on the Ipswich newspaper, and had served the *Courier* in the Parliamentary gallery and as law reporter for several years during the 1870's.

On 5 November 1892 he succeeded Jones as Principal Reporter.

"A MONETARY ECLIPSE"

William O'Carroll, who left Brisbane in the cold winter of 1885, was a conspicuous and worthy figure in Queensland journalism—a genial editor, full of the brotherhood of the craft, and helpful of juniors; bold as a lion, as comic as Punch; his crisp and incisive column of "Specialities" could scarcely be distinguished from the "best brands" of Traill and Brunton Stephens.

In 1885, the Rev. W. Smith, a Baptist minister, contributed leaders for the *Courier.* He headed one of them "Blue Sky" in reference to an economic recovery which Moreton Bay was then having from a monetary eclipse.

"We had our little bumps and reactions, even then," commented Bartley, "but it was on a small scale, and only when New South Wales put on the 'screw' for a trifle of £20,000 ($40,000) or so that the village of Brisbane owed it."

The article headed, "Blue Sky" was responded to by the

opposition newspaper (*The Guardian*) with an article headed "Sky Blue". A very little sufficed in those days, commented Bartley, to get the "screw" put on. In this case, the owner of a waterside property in South Brisbane advertised it for sale with a footnote that a portion of the purchase money (naming a balance equal to three times the value of the whole) could remain "on mortgage". This aroused the ire and jealousy of a Sydney bank director, who owned land near it, and a travelling inspector came down to call in the money due by "those inflated Moreton Bay fellows", and to restore them to a sense of the financial realities of life, and awaken them from their silly dreams.

"COMPS" IN PIONEER "COURIER" DAYS

Thomas Woodward Hill, Bartley recalled, was perhaps the last survivor of the old "comps" in pioneer *Courier* days, who wore the black calico apron at the same time that John Fairfax of the *Sydney Morning Herald* and Samuel Bennett[7] did in the days when piecework for compositors was in vogue, and a draughts board was kept between frames to relieve the tedium of the broken intervals of work in the long ago, when Sir George Gipps (1791-1847) was the Imperial Pro-Consul of Australia. Sir George was a man of many parts; he had a career as a soldier and another career as a Governor of New South Wales, and he was certainly not the worst of our early Australian governors, even if, when he left Sydney, the *Sydney Morning Herald* and the *Empire* were unanimous in describing him as the worst Governor the Colony of New South Wales ever had!

UNDESERVED UNPOPULARITY

But that has not been the judgment of history. Gipps probably had too elevated a notion of the power and authority of Governors—a predilection which the insufferably arrogant Darling shared, but he was nevertheless a distinguished man and a highly capable governor in a difficult period of the Colony's history. Arthur Jose was of the opinion that no Governor was more unpopular, and none less deserved unpopularity. "He was, in truth, a singularly able and most conscientious and high-minded Governor", was the judgment of Sir Ernest Scott, in *A Short History of Australia.*

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7. Samuel Bennett (1815-1875), journalist, was born at Camborne in Cornwall, and reached Sydney in 1841 to take up a position on the *Sydney Herald*, now the *Sydney Morning Herald*. When Kemp and Fairfax took over control of that newspaper, Bennett remained on the staff and for 17 years was head of the printing department.

BRISBANE PRESSMEN IN THE 1860's

"D.W.", writing in the *Queenslander* on 10 December 1892, described John Clarke Searle as being, without doubt, the most gifted of the writers on the Queensland Press in the 1860's. He came to Queensland from Sydney. Only 15 years old when he landed in Australia, he was about 25 when he came to Brisbane. He had, to quote D.W., a wonderful sense of the ludicrous, and a special aptitude for writing political "squibs!" His ablest performance was a long piece in verse on *The Battle of the Lawyers,* making fun of the differences between the Government and Mr. Justice Lutwyche, who, when Queensland entered upon its independent career in 1859 was both judge and politician.

The "squib" appeared in the *Ipswich Herald* between October 1860 and October 1861. "D.W." wrote: "Old colonists will appreciate the description given of one member of Parliament:

Earl Bantam Coq de Ferret was a great though little lord,
And his sable beard descended to his silver hilted sword.

PENNIES FROM THE TOLL-KEEPER

In a bit of prose satire, "D.W." remembered Searle making much of a scene in which the Treasurer, Sir Robert Mackenzie, then Mr. R. R. Mackenzie, was devising methods for filling the empty Queensland Exchequer with pennies that were to be taken by force from the toll-keeper on the old Brisbane Bridge!

Searle served for several sessions in the press gallery of the Legislative Assembly. He afterwards devoted himself to leader writing, and finally went back to England to enter into possession of a small legacy. His brother, R. Searle, was a barrister with a large practice at the Supreme Court.

Another notable pressman of the 1860's was George Hamish Hall of the *Ipswich Herald.* He was a humorist, like Searle, but of a different kind. "D.W." related that Hall's forte was writing little social essays and there was one on "servant gal-ism" (relating supposed experiences) which reduced the proof readers to convulsions. How it affected the ordinary newspaper reader, "D.W." wrote, may be imagined because proof readers, as a rule, had wrought iron fibres. "Hall seldom had the opportunity to follow his natural bent, stern necessity compelling him to give his mind mostly to leader writing—which he did not like. After a few years he went from the Press into the Public Service. Later he wrote some good stories for the *Queenslander.*"

"RED SPINNER" AND BROADSHEET HANSARD

William Senior was Queensland's first officially appointed Principal Shorthand Writer. His appointment dated from 13 January 1876. He was appointed in London by the then Premier, Hon. John Douglas, on behalf of the Speaker. Senior was an expert shorthand reporter, who had been trained in the Press gallery of the British House of Commons. Senior also wrote short stories and contributed articles on angling and other topics to the *Queenslander* under the pen-name of "Red Spinner". Senior was editor of a broadsheet *Hansard,* which was published from 1878 until 1894. The broadsheet *Hansard* had its origin in the complaint of members of Parliament that the Brisbane newspapers were publishing inadequate and allegedly unreliable reports of the debates in Parliament—a complaint that has been frequently ventilated in the Legislative Assembly over the past 50 years.

SHORTHAND CADET CORPS

Senior was editor of the daily broadsheet *Hansard,*[8] which continued to be published until 1894. While in Brisbane, Senior established and trained a Parliamentary Shorthand Cadet Corps, which had been rendered necessary because of the difficulty experienced in obtaining competent shorthand reporters.

In 1881 Senior returned to England and joined the staff of *The Field,* the notable English sporting periodical. Shorthand writers were introduced into the Supreme Court in 1913, and from 1916 they were required also to report proceedings in the Industrial Court. On 1 July 1926, the State Reporting Bureau was established, and the entire reporting activities of the Queensland Government was centralised under one control.†

William O'Carroll, Searle, and Walter Cooper covered the

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8. *Hansard* takes its title from the surname of a famous English family of printers. Luke Hansard, born in 1752 at Norwich, came to London in 1779, and worked for some years as compositor in the office of Hughes, printer to the House of Commons, whom in 1798 he succeeded as sole proprietor of the business. He died in 1828; but his descendants continued to print the parliamentary reports down to the beginning of 1889. In 1837, a bookseller named Stockdale brought an action for libel against the Messrs. Hansard, the libel consisting of statements in the Parliamentary reports which the latter had printed, and after more than one trial the judges decided in favour of Stockdale. To obviate any similar case in the future, an act of Parliament was passed, directing that proceedings against persons for publication of papers printed by order of either House of Parliament are to be stayed by the courts of law, upon delivery of a certificate and affidavit that such publication is by order of either House. The promptitude and accuracy with which he printed Parliamentary papers were often of the greatest service to the British Government, notably on one occasion, when the proof-sheets of the report of the Secret Committee on the French Revolution were submitted to William Pitt 24 hours after the draft had left his hands.

† For History of Shorthand, see Appendices.

Parliamentary debates for the *Guardian,* the rival of the *Courier.* O'Carroll was always known as "O.K."

"D.W." records that the Brisbane pressmen of this period, the late sixties, were a happy brotherhood and there was no office rivalry among them. Walter Cooper was an accomplished Parliamentary reporter. He wrote beautiful shorthand outlines and beautiful copperplate copy. After leaving Brisbane he tried the Melbourne *Argus,* where his skill was highly appreciated by the gallery chief.

LONG HOURS IN PRESS GALLERY

Henry Bohm, squat of figure, fair, and heavily moustached, was originally a compositor and a very good one (recorded "D.W.") on the *Sydney Morning Herald.* He came to Queensland to take charge of the printing department of the *Ipswich Herald.* From Ipswich, where he developed into a reporter, he went to the *Brisbane Courier.* Bohm could not write shorthand, yet he turned out excellent Parliamentary reports. He never gave any speaker's exact language, but the substance was always correctly rendered. His capacity for work was remarkable.

In those days, it was not unusual for Cooper and Bohm to turn out single-handed, reports five or six columns long. They had what the newspaper staffs of today do *not* have—time—for there were then no early trains (or planes) to catch.

WORKED TILL DAWN

Newspapers went to press much later than they do today, and sometimes they would work through till dawn before the last sheet of Parliamentary copy had been written.

All copy had to be written by hand, for even primitive typewriters—primitive by comparison with today's streamlined models—were not available in Brisbane in those days. Incidentally, the earliest typewriter—the *Remington*—did not appear on the market until 1873, and it was clumsy and slow by modern standards.

When they and other Brisbane reporters went to Ipswich to report a big political speech they had to ride on horseback or drive their own buggy! The river steamers which varied their hour of starting with the tide and the coach (one each way) never suited the convenience of the pressmen, and reporting by telegraph or telephone was, of course, unknown in those days. Election nominations were then held at noon, which gave the reporters time, after reaching Brisbane, to write out a long report.

BOHM AN ALL-ROUNDER

Bohm not only reported Parliament — the "plum" reporter's job in those days—but he was without a rival in describing the races. "D.W." describes him as an all-round pressman, and good at any literary task, from giving a critical review of an opera to writing a spirited leader. He had one odd affliction—he *would use* the aspirate when he should not, and he used it "from conviction". On one occasion, he made the Governor, Sir George Bowen, speak of the noblest work of God as being "a honest man." He would not hear of "an" being substituted for "a".

In those days, the Governor had the privilege of seeing proofs of his speeches, and the quotation came back with the missing "n" carefully marked in—much to Bohm's disgust! As a matter of fact, His Excellency the Governor still gets a proof of his speeches, although these are confined nowadays to the speech he reads at the Official Opening of Parliament each year, and this speech is, in fact, prepared for him by his advisers, the Government of the day. Only the first few sentences are the Governor's own creation.

From the *Courier,* Bohm went to the *Guardian,* and thence, on the decease of the *Guardian,* to Townsville, where he died.

A young journalist for a short period on the *Guardian* was Herbert Rogers, son of a notable comedian of the times, George Herbert Rogers (1820-72) celebrated English actor and comedian.[9]

EDITED THE "GYMPIE TIMES"

Herbert Rogers had inherited some of his father's dramatic ability. He was a clever mimic, and was beginning

9. George Rogers' father, Thomas Rogers, was a surgeon, and his brother Henry, a brilliant British essayist and author. G. H. Rogers enlisted in the British Army revealed a remarkable talent in regimental theatricals his discharge was purchased and transferred to Hobart with his regiment in July 1839. However, when he revealed a remarkable talent in regimental theatricals his discharge was purchased by public subscription. George Coppin (1819-1906), the notable actor and politician, who was visiting Hobart, engaged Rogers, and under Coppin's management and training, he played in the leading cities of Australia. By 1848 he had achieved a reputation for playing old men's parts. He died in Melbourne on 12 February 1872. Rogers, who was twice married and was survived by six children, was an outstandingly capable actor, both in burlesque and drama. He was equally felicitous in the respective roles of Antonio in *The Merchant of Venice,* Falstaff in Shakespeare's *King Henry IV,* and Fagin in *Oliver Twist.* Shakespeare's inimitable creation of the fat knight is one of the most brilliant of his inspirations, in which Falstaff reaches the heights of truly heroic farce. There is a tradition dating from 1702 that Queen Elizabeth commanded Shakespeare to exhibit Falstaff in love, and that in obedience he hastily wrote—in 14 days, it is said—*The Merry Wives of Windsor* (1598-99). The comedy is of special interest as a picture of middle-class English life, and may be well studied in comparison with Ben Jonson's *Every Man in his Humour,* but the fatuous Falstaff of the *Merry Wives* is far different from the ever-detected yet never-defeated Falstaff of the historical plays. The comedy is written almost wholly in prose, and in its incidents approaches farce. The Fagin of *Oliver Twist* was the supreme test of the artist in the delineation of villainy, its theme being the public exposure of the conduct of workhouses, just as that of *Nicholas Nickleby* was to denounce the management of cheap boarding schools.

to show an aptitude for writing humorous sketches, when by the cessation of the *Guardian,* his connection with the Brisbane Press came to an end, and he went to Gympie where he edited the *Gympie Times.*

Under Bohm he had been hard worked and had great difficulty in escaping from the extra and unforeseen engagements which the chief of staff used to find for his men on Friday, which was usually an off day for them. Rogers died at Gympie, while still a young man.

The *Gympie Times,* on which I cut my journalistic teeth before coming to Brisbane in June 1922, was first published on 15 February 1868, under the title of the *Nashville* (now Gympie) *Times and Mary River Mining Gazette,* and was a bi-weekly at 6d. per copy. The enterprise was launched by Messrs. Parkinson, Kidner and Sloman, who were then proprietors of the *Queensland Times.*

PLANT CAME FROM IPSWICH BY BULLOCK DRAY

All the printing plant came from Ipswich by bullock dray. On 17 October 1868, the Government decided to call the new goldfield Gympie, and the name of the newspaper, which was then appearing as a tri-weekly, was changed to the *Gympie Times,* Gympie. Gympie is the native name for the large-leaved stinging tree.

OTHER GYMPIE NEWSPAPERS

Subsequently, a change in the proprietorship was made, Messrs. Herbert Rogers, James Chapple, and James Irwin (Rogers and Co.) taking over the newspaper from the original owners. In December 1880 Messrs A. G. Ramsey and Jacob Stumm became the owners and later the proprietary became the Gympie Times Ltd., all members of the firm being Gympie residents, professional and business men.

There were two other newspapers associated with the history of Gympie. The *Gympie Miner* was started in 1877 by Henry Marcus and later became the property of Mr. A. L. Bourcicault, who ran it as a tri-weekly evening newspaper. In 1888, the *Miner* was acquired by a local company, the Gympie Newspaper Company.

STARTED "BULLETIN'S" RED PAGE

The most interesting fact about the *Miner* was that its editor was Alfred George Stephens (1865-1937), who, in after years, became the famous literary critic of the *Sydney Bulletin.* Stephens was born at Toowoomba and was the son of a journalist, Samuel George Stephens, an immigrant

from Swansea, Wales, who had become part-owner of the *Darling Downs Gazette*. His mother, Euphemia Russell, was a native of Greenock, Scotland. He was educated at the Toowoomba Grammar School, but left school when he was 15, to begin work as a proof-reader and compositor on the *Toowoomba Chronicle*. After a period in Sydney, where he was employed by A. W. Beard, printer and book-binder, he returned to Queensland in 1889, and was for brief periods in succession, editor of the *Gympie Miner,* sub-editor of the *Boomerang* (Brisbane), which had been started by William Lane (1861-1917), the founder of the New Australia Communist Colony in Paraguay; and editor of the Cairns *Argus*. In 1892 he won a prize with a political essay *Why North Queensland Wants Separation,* which was published as a pamphlet. In 1893, he published *The Griffilwraith,* a pamphlet which satirised the Griffith-McIlwraith coalition in Queensland.

In April 1893, acting as correspondent for some Australian newspapers, he reported the World's Fair at Chicago, U.S.A. Afterwards, he went to Britain and France, and towards the end of that year, while doing newspaper work in London, he received from J. F. Archibald, who had succeeded W. H. Traill, another Queensland journalist, as editor of the Sydney *Bulletin,* an offer of employment as a sub-editor on the Sydney *Bulletin*. Early in 1894, Stephens published *A Queenslander's Travel Notes,* which criticised in humorous style Europe's attractions as compared with those of Australia.

THE RED PAGE OF THE BULLETIN

Since May 1883, the *Bulletin,* which had been founded in 1880, had been a red-covered magazine. Its literary section, *The Red Page,* did not become a feature of the *Bulletin,* until September 1894, some months after Stephens had joined the staff. There is some authority for believing that Stephens in fact, initiated the feature. He was appointed its first editor in 1896, and for the next ten years he was its editor and principal contributor. A forthright, unsparing critic, he signed his articles, "R.G.S.", and for this reason, Joseph Furphy (1843-1912), the famous author of the Australian classic, *Such Is Life,* christened him "The Three-Initialled Terror", but Stephens' own term for himself was the most appropriate—"The Red Pagan".

To complete in brief this reference to journalism in Gympie, a bi-weekly newspaper the *Gympie Truth,* was started in 1896 in the interest of the Australian Labor Party, of which Andrew Fisher was one of the principal share-

holders and the late Henry Ernest Boote (1868-1949), later editor of the *Australian Worker,* in Sydney, was editor. Boote, a competent editor and a pungent, forceful writer, exercised considerable influence in the political thinking of the A.L.P. Boote, who had been apprenticed to the printing trade in Liverpool, where he was born, had arrived in Australia shortly after the maritime strike of 1891. In 1894, he became editor of the Bundaberg *Guardian,* and two years later he was one of the founders of the Gympie *Truth.* In 1902, he was appointed editor of the *Queensland Worker,* one of Australia's pioneer Labor newspapers. In 1911, he moved to Sydney, and until his retirement in 1943, he edited the *Australian Worker.* Boote was a trustee of the Australian Workers' Union, and a trustee of the New South Wales Public Library and the Mitchell Library. He published a number of books, including three volumes of verse. He played an active part in the anti-conscription campaign of 1917.

A PHYSICAL AND MENTAL GIANT

A word about W. H. Traill may not be amiss here. William Henry Traill (1844-1902), was the only son of John Traill, of Westeve, Orkney Islands. A big man, physically and mentally, he was a Londoner by birth and was educated in Edinburgh and London. He emigrated to Australia when he was about 17, and became a jackeroo on a station near Dalby, Queensland. About two years later, he was left a small legacy and returned to Britain for a few months. Then he came back to Queensland and became manager of the Maroon Estate in the Beaudesert district of Queensland. A direct and forceful writer, in 1869 he joined the literary staff of the *Brisbane Courier.* He subsequently purchased the *Darling Downs Gazette* in Toowoomba, but later returned to the *Courier,* and in 1878 he went down to Sydney to become editor of the *Sydney Mail.* After holding this post for about twelve months, he resigned to become Reuter's representative in New South Wales. During this period he was also contributing literary articles to the *Sydney Mail* and the *Sydney Morning Herald.*

ARCHIBALD AND HAYNES GAOLED

Late in January 1880, the Sydney *Bulletin* was established. Traill was soon busy writing leaders to the bright little publication. Fearless and witty, it soon established a high reputation. As a result of the famous Clontarf libel action,[10] which in 1882, led to the founders of the Sydney

10. See Appendices.

Bulletin, J. F. Archibald, then associate editor, and John Haynes, advertising manager, being imprisoned in Darlinghurst Gaol, Traill became editor of the *Bulletin.* Haynes and Archibald were imprisoned for failing to pay the costs of the libel action. Traill was the man who defined the *Bulletin's* political policy—briefly, land nationalization, protection and support for Irish home rule. In Archibald's own words, Traill took "a very practical interest in the welfare of the *Bulletin*—from the production of a brilliantly written, unanswerable leader to the phlegmatic explosions of an obsolete gas-engine". Archibald also noted that Traill was "a man of remarkable personality—a huge Highlander whose every attribute and habit spoke of rugged strength." On a memorable occasion, two men visited the *Bulletin* office with the intention of horsewhipping the editor. One look at Traill's physical proportions—apart from his threat to "grind their skulls on the doorstep" was sufficient to douse their martial ardour—and they beat a hasty retreat.

For a brief season the brilliant Robert Atkin and W. C. Bellbridge were proprietors of the *Evening Express.* Atkin was a wit. He had classical quotations on the tip of his tongue—or pen. "His was a fiery spirit in a frail body", comments "D.M." A year or two passed and he died at Sandgate where a monument was erected on his grave in the Rectory garden.

ANCESTORS OF THE "TELEGRAPH"

The *Evening Express* was one of the ancestors of the *Brisbane Telegraph.* Atkin was the first member for the electorate of Moreton in the Queensland Parliament. At first, the *Express* was published twice a week, then three times a week, and on 31 March 1870, it was issued as a daily. It did not prosper, however, and in a year it had ceased to exist. Another attempt was made by Atkin in association with William O'Carroll and W. W. Rutledge. They started a daily newspaper called *The Colonist,* with the same plant, and in the same building in Queen Street which had housed the *Express.* The *Colonist* first appeared on 7 June 1871. It was taken over by another company in 1872.

THE "TELEGRAPH" ON THE SCENE

This was the Telegraph Newspaper Company, which brought out the first issue of the *Telegraph* as a penny evening newspaper on 1 October 1872, from the same building which had been so briefly used by the *Colonist.* These offices were near the Bank of New South Wales, at the corner of George and Queen Streets. Later, adjoining premises on

the site now occupied by the firm of Barry and Roberts were purchased. This building was eventually replaced by the *Telegraph* building, which stood for many years in Queen Street. Newspaper House now occupies the site. The old *Telegraph* building was drawn to the design of Mr. George Cowlishaw, who, although not on the original board of directors, played a leading part with his brother, Mr. James Cowlishaw, in the early and later control of the *Telegraph* company.

A HISTORIC MONUMENT

In May 1932, while doing research for the *Courier* for an article on the origin, history, and development of Sandgate, I saw the fine monument erected over the graves of Robert Travers Atkin and his sister, Miss Grace Atkin, in the rectory garden of St. Margaret's Anglican Church in Sandgate. The rector in May 1932 was the Rev. A. McD. Hassel, and he and Mrs. Hassel bestowed much care on the upkeep of the grave and its fine monument. Years of wind and rain have rendered the inscription almost indecipherable, in places, but the monument, surmounted by a broken column, was in a good state of preservation when I saw it several years ago. Robert Travers Atkin frequently visited Sandgate and, so I was told, loved to sit on the spot here to enjoy the sight of the sea. In his will, he asked to be buried there, and left a legacy of £50 toward the cost of a church near his grave. Atkin was a fine type of Irish gentleman. He died on 25 May 1872, and a monument was erected by the Hibernian Society of Queensland. In 1876, the remains of Miss Grace Atkin were laid alongside those of her brother.

A CONTEMPORARY OF CHARLES DICKENS

D. F. Jones graduated on the *Melbourne Argus*. On the *Argus,* he was remembered as an efficient shorthand writer, one of Gurney's men in London, and a reporter who attended all the great social events. Jones was a skilled shorthand writer, who had reported debates in the Press gallery of the House of Commons. A contemporary of his was Charles Dickens, who was formerly a reporter for the *Morning Chronicle*. Dickens' father, the original of his famous character, Wilkins Micawber, became a reporter for the *Morning Herald,* following his imprisonment for debt in the Marshalsea gaol.[11]

Charles, feeling small love for the hopeless drudgery of a lawyer's office, resolved also to attempt the profession of

11. See Appendices.

journalist. He taught himself shorthand with the resolution —even the rage—which he always threw into everything he undertook; and he frequented the British Museum daily in order to supplement some of the shortcomings of his reading. In his 17th year he became a reporter at Doctors' Commons, formerly the college of the doctors of civil law in London, which was situated in St. Bennet's Hill, St. Paul's Churchyard. It was founded by Dr. Henry Harvey, Dean of the Arches, in 1568, previous to which the doctors had lived in Paternoster Row. The original building was burned in the Great Fire in 1666, when the doctors removed for a time to Exeter House. In 1672, the Commons was rebuilt, and the doctors returned to their former quarters. The college was incorporated by Royal Charter in 1768. The persons practising in Doctors' Commons were the doctors, called in the ecclesiastical courts advocates, and the proctors, whose duties were analogous to those of solicitors. Both doctors and proctors were admitted by fiat of the Archbishop, and introduced to the Dean of Arches in court by two persons of their own degree in their robes. The robe of the doctors was scarlet, with a hood trimmed with taffeta or white miniver. In 1857, on the establishment of the Divorce Court and Probate Court, the charter of Doctors' Commons was surrendered, and the corporation was dissolved, the advocates being merged in the general body of the Bar, and the proctors becoming solicitors; but the old names continued to be used.

SANDGATE—AS NEHEMIAH BARTLEY SAW IT

A colourful description of Sandgate as it was in the late 'fifties and early 'sixties of last century is included in Nehemiah Bartley's *Reminiscences*. He tells how he first went there in September 1858, in company with Dr. Hobbs and the Rev. George Wight. Sandgate's population then consisted of 25 persons. The "hotel" was kept by Charles F. Davie, who was in ill-health, and had come to live in Sandgate to seek benefit from the sea air. Butchers and bakers and shops there were none, the only fare was salt beef and "damper". Bartley relates how the party strolled to Shorncliffe, where Mr. Wight noticed the coal seam jutting out on the beach. Months afterwards, the Aborigines from the north end of the Bay (Bribie way), came down and made the place "uncomfortable". They bailed Tom Dowse up in a slab hut, which, fortunately for him, had no glass windows, but only an opening to which a thick wooden shutter fitted like a hatchway. This was spear-proof, and he escaped injury. Afterwards Lieutenant Wheeler, of the

Native Police, cleared out the Aborigines, who never again troubled Sandgate.

"PRIMITIVE SIMPLICITY AND BEAUTY"

Sandgate soon developed into a popular seaside resort for children who needed to get rid of the troublesome tail-end of whooping cough, measles, or scarlet fever.

Bartley recalled that Cabbage Tree Creek was a "teaser" to cross at high water, but after 1861, a bridge was built across it. A picnic to Sandgate and back on the same day soon became a recognised institution in Brisbane life. The little town grew, and stores and hotels were built, as well as cottages to be let for the summer season, furnished.

Could Nehemiah Bartley have seen Sandgate as it is today, he would, no doubt, have been a very surprised man. The place chiefly appealed to him for its primitive simplicity and the unspoiled beauty of its natural surroundings. He recorded exultantly that there was no pier at Sandgate, no yachts, no bazaars, no German bands, no shipping, no circulating libraries, no bathing machines, no steamers, and no "society"!

"BUT NOT ALL A DREARY WASTE"

"But still", said Bartley, "for a' that and a' that, Sandgate is not all a dreary waste. Oh, dear no! Albeit the male strollers on the beach are annoyed at times by coming suddenly upon bands of female naiads bathing in the surf, and although the female strollers are now and again similarly offended at coming quite unexpectedly upon a squad of male Tritons disporting themselves in the rollers, these things will, and must happen in primitive Sandgate, and possibly in 1975, when Sandgate is highly civilised, the people will look back with interest to the simple early knickerbocker days of old Queensland."

What Nehemiah Bartley, in the light of his quaint prophecy, would think of the bikinis and mini skirts of today, if he could come back and see them, would make very interesting reading.

"THE MURMUR OF MIMIC WAVES"

Bartley waxed lyrical in his praises of Sandgate. "There is", he said, "the murmur of mimic waves on the beach, soothing you to sleep all night and seeming to say, 'Take your rest, and I will keep watch, for I never slumber nor sleep.' With all the force of ten thousand punkahs, the fresh sea air fattens you and is pumped into you, to your great and permanent benefit."

"The man to appreciate Sandgate is the bushman: the man into whose weary soul the iron of the Condamine Plains and the brigalow scrub of the Dawson country has fully entered—the man to whom sheep and cattle are, for want of a change, a weariness and a desolation. Such a one can appreciate that narrow zone of Paradise, which lies just where the continent and the ocean meets."

Such a glowing tribute should satisfy even the most ardent lover of Sandgate!

A PROFUSION OF NEWSPAPERS

In the late 'sixties and early 'seventies and 'eighties of last century, a profusion of newspapers made their appearance in Brisbane. It would certainly seem that there was no scarcity of the necessary capital and enterprise, but in almost all instances these journalistic ventures were short-lived. A list of newspapers held in the Queensland Parliamentary Library includes the following:

The Colonist (twice weekly), which lasted from June 1871 to 28 September 1872.

The Daily News (weekly, three times a week, and lastly daily) 7 October 1876 to 18 January 1879.

Our Paper, a weekly journal, 1 August 1868 to 10 October 1868.

Queensland Evangelical Standard, 16 September 1876 to 24 December 1886, weekly.

Queensland Express, 5 August 1868 to 30 March 1871 (twice and three times a week).

Queensland Punch, 1 October 1878 to 1 September 1879.

Many other newspapers, which sprouted like mushrooms in the 1880's, have left no record. No file is available of the *Free Press,* nor of the Brisbane *Evening News*, which was issued in 1881 from the *Courier* office.

"QUEENSLANDER" ESTABLISHED

An important milestone in the history of Queensland journalism was reached in 1866 when the then proprietor of the *Courier,* Thomas Blackett Stephens, decided to establish a weekly journal to be called the *Queenslander.* Its purpose was to cater for the settlers and residents of distant districts who had mail communication with Brisbane once a fortnight, once a month, or at even rarer intervals, and who could not be expected to read a daily newspaper delivered in bundles of many copies at a time.

A 12-PAGE BROADSHEET

The *Queenslander's* first issue was a rather primitive production by modern standards—a 12-page broadsheet with modest heading types, and close set columns almost entirely devoid of illustrations, but its first editor, Angus Mackay, set out to furnish Brisbane readers with a bright, forceful, hard-hitting journalism—which he was quite capable of doing, because he was a brilliant, top-class journalist of wide experience and high literary qualifications.

Angus Mackay (1824-86), journalist and politician, was the son of Murdoch Mackay of the 78th Highlanders, the famous Ross Shire Buffs, which were established in 1793. Mackay, an Aberdonian, was taken to New South Wales with his family in 1829, and was educated at the Australian College, Sydney. After leaving school, he became a teacher, but became interested in journalism following a successful debut as a writer of topical articles and comment for the *Australian Magazine,* and other publications.

In 1847, he leapt into prominence in Sydney journalism as editor of Robert Lowe's newspaper, *The Atlas.*

This will be an appropriate place to conclude this paper. At some future date I hope to tell the story of Robert Lowe, Viscount Sherbrooke (1811-1892), politician and newspaper magnate, who flashed brilliantly across the Australian sky in politics and journalism, like a shooting star, and after leaving Australia, had another career in politics in England.

APPENDICES

"ARTEMUS WARD"

Charles Farrar, American humorist, was better known by his pseudonym of "Artemus Ward". He was born in Waterford, Maine, on 26 April 1834; he died at Southampton, England, on 16 March 1867. From typesetter in a newspaper office at Skowhegan, Maine, he removed to Boston, and thence to Toledo and Cleveland. Meanwhile, he had graduated as a reporter and contributor to newspapers.

In 1858, under the cognomen of "Artemus Ward, showman", he wrote for the *Cleveland Plain Dealer,* a description of an imaginary travelling menagerie. This was followed by letters professedly from the same source, in which grotesque spelling and an inextricable interweaving of business puffery and moralising served to convey sound sense and shrewd satire. The letters were widely circulated, and the author was invited to a share in the editorship of a new comic periodical *Vanity Fair,* in New York. The War Between the States was then raging, and in the stress of the times, the venture failed, after a brilliant if brief career. In December 1861, "Artemus Ward" entered the lecture field. Under the title *The Babes in the Wood,* he delivered a brilliant satire on the dull twaddle which had been imposed on the public by pompous bores. Such was its success that a theatrical manager in California telegraphed to Farrar: "What will you take for 40 nights in California? Answer immediately"

His prompt reply, "Brandy and water" assured him a riotous welcome among the miners. Making his way thither by stage coach over the plains and Rocky Mountains, "Ward" had some experiences with the Indians, and especially with the Mormons, "whose religion," he afterwards explained, "is singular, but their wives are plural." As an adjunct to his lectures on these attractive topics, he got a panorama, whose artistic wretchedness furnished occasion for countless jokes. In 1864 the lecturer was disabled by a pulmonary illness. In 1866, having rallied somewhat, he went to England, where he was received in the most friendly manner. He contributed to London *Punch,* still in the character of "the genial showman." In November he opened the exhibition of his panorama in Egyptian Hall in London, and achieved great popularity as a representative of American humour. Although the seal of death was on his features, he did not abate any of his quaint originality and amusing satire. His keen observation and graphic revelation of human nature stood forth from a background of truisms, which removed for a time any suspicion that the satire was aimed at the audience. In February 1867 he went for the benefit of his health to the Island of Jersey, but returned to die at Southampton, England, on 6 March 1867. He was deeply beloved by his associates, and devoted to his mother, to whom he left a modest income. His writings were gathered into several volumes. "Artemus Ward" has been well described as being "easily the prince of all American wits" "Artemus Ward" had everything written, for his jokes were carefully elaborated. His manner was quiet, hesitating and deprecatory. When some stage comedians are about to perpetrate a witticism, you can see it rising in their faces like the flush that precedes the appearance of a full moon. But Artemus never smiled; and while the audience was in a roar, he would look up with a sort of wistful glance of innocent inquiry, as if he wondered what it was all about. A contemporary theatrical critic said that the most exquisite feature of his fun was the appearance of an artless lack of intention in saying the most incongruous and comical things. *It was wit, almost pure wit.* "His comicalities were composed of almost pure fancy, out of his own head. So it not infrequently occurred that those of his audience who would have haw-hawed at a clown did not quite catch his flitting fancies that were as delicate and as elusive as the texture and colours of a soap-bubble."

CLONTARF—SCENE OF ATTEMPTED ASSASSINATION OF DUKE OF EDINBURGH

Clontarf is a suburb fronting Middle Harbour, Sydney, where, on 12 March 1868, a mentally unbalanced Irishman named O'Farrell, made an unsuccessful attempt to assassinate Prince Alfred, the Duke of Edinburgh, the second son of Queen Victoria, who visited Australia between October 1867 and April 1868, during a cruise in *H.M.S. Galatea.* He was then aged 23. He visited all the Australian colonies except Western Australia and was given an enthusiastic welcome. But his tour was marred by the incident at Clontarf. The would-be assassin shot the Duke in the back at close range, fortunately without inflicting a dangerous wound. The attempted assassination caused anti-Irish feeling, for it was believed by many people that O'Farrell, who was later executed, was the instrument of a Fenian plot to murder the Duke.

Clontarf was also the scene of events which, in 1882, led to the founders of the Sydney *Bulletin,* Archibald and Haynes being imprisoned in Darlinghurst Gaol. The *Bulletin* had published in 1881

an article which made a strong attack on blatant larrikinism that prevailed at Clontarf beach, and which alleged that much of the responsibility for this conduct rested with "scoundrels who gained a livelihood by ministering to the orgies of the vicious." Suit in an action for libel was brought by a man who conducted a picnic ground in the area, and the case went against the *Bulletin,* with one farthing damages. An application for a new trial was refused by the Full Court in December. The costs, by then about £1,500, had been reduced by about £800 through public subscription, but the balance remained unpaid and Archibald and Haynes were arrested. By a curious stroke of irony, Traill, who had written the article which was the subject of the libel action, was not molested. The two prisoners continued to write while in gaol; their literary output including a joint article entitled *"In the Jug",* in which they gave a humorous description of their life in prison. One of their visitors was G. R. (later Sir George) Dibbs, who was later Premier of New South Wales, and who had himself spent 12 months, apparently in relative comfort, in the debtors' quarters at Darlinghurst. Prominent Sydney citizens addressed meetings on behalf of the two prisoners, and so popular was the agitation in their favour that the money owing was raised, and Archibald and Haynes were released after having been in gaol for six weeks. At a big public meeting they were vociferously welcomed back into public life. Archibald has gone on record as asserting that the Clontarf libel case of great benefit to him personally, because it ensured him the longest holiday he had ever had!

THE STORY OF JOHN KENT

John Kent (1809-62) was a pioneer Queensland Government official. He was born at Boniton, in Berkshire, England. As a young man he migrated to Sydney in 1832, and went to Norfolk Island, where he was appointed an assistant commissary officier. In 1839, he was transferred to the Moreton Bay Settlement as Deputy Assistant Commissary-General. He held that post for several years, and established a reputation as a friend of the settlers. In August 1844, when the first Leichhardt expedition assembled at Brisbane, Kent presented the explorers with a supply of chocolate. Because of this gift, Leichhardt bestowed the name Kent's Lagoon on a spot on the Northern Darling Downs, where the party was held up during October.

Kent was appointed by Queensland's first Government, the Herbert Ministry, to be Police Magistrate at Maryborough. In that capacity, he won notoriety in an extraordinary case early in 1862. A boy, eight years of age, was caned at school for disobedience. The father of the boy laid an information against the schoolmaster, R. S. Kerley, and the case came before Kent and R. B. Sheridan, another magistrate. A young son of Sheridan, who had been called as a witness, failed to appear, whereupon Sheridan left the bench, to return later, bringing the boy with him. Kent was insistent that young Sheridan should be sworn as a witness, but the father contended that at such an age (10 years) the boy was too young to understand the meaning of a court oath. After further heated argument between Kent and Sheridan, Kent committed the boy Sheridan to the lock-up for seven days for contempt. Sheridan registered strong objection, and the arrogant Kent ordered a constable to remove Sheridan from the court. Sheridan retired, without the assistance of the police. The case proceeded, and Kerley was sen-

tenced to six weeks' imprisonment, with hard labour in Brisbane gaol.

Public meetings of protest against the severity of the sentence were held in Maryborough, and a demand was made for Kent's removal from the bench. Kent's retort was to arraign the chief constable and two other constables and charged them with wilful disobedience in that they had failed to remove Sheridan forcibly from the bench. The Chief Constable, C. S. Hawthorne contended that Kent had no right to adjudicate on charges brought by himself. Kent's reaction was to summarily close the proceedings and inflict fines on all three constables. Another storm of public protest followed, and the Government thereupon released Kerley, and suspended both Kent and Sheridan. A few weeks later the Government announced that Kent was to be transferred to the position of Lands Commissioner at Mitchell. Kent committed suicide at Maryborough on Christmas Day of the same year—1862. He had married in 1842, at Brisbane, and there were five children. A daughter married Berkeley Basil Moreton, later the 4th Earl of Ducie, shortly before her father's death.

THE MARSHALSEA

The Marshalsea was the gaol attached to the Marshalsea Court, originally established under the Earl-Marshal of England for the trial of servants of the royal household. In later years it came to be used as a prison for debtors and defaulters, as well as persons convicted of piracy or other offences on the high seas. It stood near the church of St. George, Southwark, and existed in the reign of Edward III. It was abolished as the Palace Court in 1849. The Marshalsea prison of *Little Dorrit* was the place where for two years he went in and out. The Queen's Bench and its Rules were close to the Marshalsea; Bob Sawyer's lodgings in Lant Street were his own; David Copperfield, the friendless lad in the dingy warehouse, was himself; the cathedral of Edwin Drood was that in whose shadow he had lived. Mrs. Pipchin was his old landlady of Camden Town; the most delightful features in Mr. Micawber were borrowed from his own father; the experiences of Doctors Commons, the solicitors' clerks, the life in chambers, are all his own. And yet, while he was always drawing on these early recollections, while they constantly furnished him with scenes and characters, he could not bear to speak of them, and no one except his friend and biographer, Forster, ever knew that he was, himself, with all the shabby, mean surroundings in early life, exactly such as David Copperfield.

THE STORY OF SHORTHAND THROUGH THE CENTURIES

The problem which inventors of systems of shorthand attempted to solve was thus formulated by Peter Bales (*circa* 1547-1610), a writing master and stenographer—*to write as fast as a man speaketh treatably*. "This," he said, "may in appearance seem difficult; but it is in effect very easy, containing a many commodities under a few principles, the shortness whereof is attained by memory, and swiftness by practice, and sweetness by industry." Although more than 360 years have elapsed since this assertion was made, it has not yet been realised to the extent anticipated.

Phonography is the lineal descendant of 200 different systems that have been published since the appearance of the first system of shorthand in 1588. In the 18th century, three systems were published, by Tiffin (1750); Lyle (1762); and Holdsworth and Aldridge

(1768); and in the 19th century five systems appeared, by Row (1802); Towndrow (1831); Pitman (1837) De Staines (1839); and Bell (1857), based on the phonetic principle; but, excepting phonography, they were wanting in all the main requisites of a shorthand system—simplicity of construction, facility in execution and elegance in effect.

THE DARLING DOWNS GAZETTE

Arthur Sydney Lyon was the first editor of the *Darling Downs Gazette*. The *Gazette* was established by the squatters. Proof of this is contained in a statement made by Hon. John Douglas, who was Premier of Queensland from March 1877 (forming a Ministry with Samuel Griffith as Attorney-General and chief colleague) to January 1879, when his party was defeated in a State election. He thereupon abandoned politics. In a *History of Thursday Island,* of which he was for some years the Administrator, he referred to the Australian Federation movement, and stated: "You will find it all set out in black and white in the pages of *The Darling Downs Gazette* of those days—a little weekly periodical much after the style of *The Pilot* which was started by me in those days of youthful exuberance." From this statement it seems evident that John Douglas was prominently associated with the first publication of the *Darling Downs Gazette*. At that time John Douglas had extensive pastoral interests in that part of Queensland, and for some time sat in the New South Wales Parliament as member for the Darling Downs. The reference to *The Pilot* is interesting because many Queenslanders are familiar with the tiny news sheet which was published at Thursday Island under that name for several years.

In 1921, an article by "Ben Bolt" (Duncan M. Cameron), was written for, and published in the *Darling Downs Gazette*. "Ben Bolt" wrote: "I can just manage to cast my memory back to that day in June, 68 years ago, when as a kiddie I stood open-mouthed with astonishment while the late Joe Burton, under the supervision of the late George Hooper (Lyon's foreman), unloaded a mysterious assortment at Joe Kitchen's cottage, next to the old lock-up, across the Drayton Creek . . ." Lyon named his paper the *Darling Downs Gazette* with the motto "Ferio! Tego!" "I strike! I defend!"

When in a couple of years the circulation was verging on 300, Lyon sold out to William Henry Byers, a practical printer, who, in 1862, removed the plant to Toowoomba, where the *Gazette* grew and flourished. After giving up control of this paper, Mr. Lyon disappeared from the journalistic stage, and died at Cleveland on October 22, 1861, at the comparatively early age of forty-four.

ROMANS PRACTISED SHORTHAND

The shorthand of the Romans, practised by Tiro, first the slave and afterwards the freedman of Cicero (Marcus Tulltus Cicero 106-43 B.C.), the foremost orator of ancient Rome, one of her leading statesmen, and the most brilliant and accomplished of her men of letters—was really an abbreviated longhand. The Roman letters were shorn of their just proportions, initial letters often served for whole words, and terminations, in which Latin abounds, were either abbreviated or omitted. By systematising these mutilations, Tiro constructed a system of swift writing, which served him as Cicero's amanuensis in good stead, and doubtless we owe to it much of what remains to us of the writings of Cicero.

The history of shorthand properly so called, with an alphabet of simple signs as substitutes for the ordinary letters, dates from the

reign of Elizabeth. Dr. Timothy Bright (*circa* 1551-1615), a learned man, the author of several medical works and the compiler of an abridgement of Fox's *Book of Acts and Monuments of the Church,* in the year 1588 published *Characterie; an Arte of Shorte, Swifte, and Secrete Writing by Character.* In this ingenious work, Bright claims the invention of the art of shorthand. His claim may justly be disputed, for his system was not shorthand in the present sense of the word. It was not based on a shorthand alphabet but was a system of arbitrary marks for words. Two years after the appearance of this work, Peter Bales published *The Writing Schoolmaster.* This system also was composed of arbitrary characters. In 1602, a little more than 60 years before Wilkins published his celebrated *Essay Towards a Real Character and a Philosophical Language* (1668), appeared *The Art of Stenography, or Short Writing, by Spelling Charactery, invented by John Willis, Bachelor in Divinity.* The author intimated in the title of the work the grand distinction between it and the previous attempts that had been made in the art by describing it as *spelling* charactery, the others having been *verbal* charactery.

Sixteen years after the publication of John Willis's system, Edmund Willis published *An Abbreviation of Writing by Character* (1618). This system exhibited a considerable improvement in the inadequate alphabet of John Willis, and 15 of Edmund Willis's letters were adopted by subsequent shorthand writers.

The next name on the roll of shorthand authors deserving of mention is that of Rich (1654-69).

His system was used by Dr. Philip Doddridge, the great Nonconformist divine (1702-1751), who reprinted it for the benefit of his theological students, and strongly recommended its adoption by young persons. Doddridge had settled in 1729 at Northampton as minister and president of a theological academy, where he continued to preach and train young students for the ministry till shortly before his death. Doddridge was a man of the most amiable character, deep piety, and extensive accomplishments. He was liberal and evangelical, and with all his religious earnestness and enthusiasm, had humanity enough for such "levities" as cards and tobacco. His hymns have carried his name over the English-speaking religious world, perhaps the best known being *Hark, the Glad Sound, the Saviour Comes* and *O God of Bethel, by Whose Hand.* His works fill 10 volumes (Leeds, 1802-05).

Mason followed Rich in 1672-1707. The alphabet had by this time become much simplified. Mason's system was adopted by Thomas Gurney in 1750 and has ever since been known as Gurney's Shorthand.

The principal shorthand authors of the 18th century were: Macaulay, 1747; Angell, 1758; Byrom, 1767; Taylor, 1786 and Mavor 1789; and in the 19th century, Clive, 1810; Lewis, 1815; Moat, 1833: Isaac Pitman, 1837; Fancutt, 1840; Bradley, 1843. Of these systems, except Pitman's phonography, the one that had obtained the greatest amount of popularity in the 19th century was Taylor's. Taylor's alphabetical signs were well chosen, but it failed to supply signs for three consonant sounds heard in the English language, and it made no pretension to express all the vowel and dipthong sounds.

ISAAC PITMAN'S PHONOGRAPHY

The publication in 1837 of Isaac Pitman's system of shorthand, entitled *Phonography,* in which the stenographic signs or letters represent the *sounds* of the English language, marked a new era in

the art. At the end of the 18th century the price of a treatise on shorthand was a guinea, and a course of lessons in the art cost five or ten guineas. In contrast with this, Pitman's system was published in a compendious tabular form for a penny, and he organised a Phonetic Society, extending throughout Great Britain and Ireland, whose members invited learners to send their lessons through the post for gratuitous correction.

Given a language, say the English, it was required to provide signs for its expression which might be written at the rate of speech in a public assembly, which would range from a very slow utterance of 60 words a minute, with frequent pauses, to a rapid flow of 180 words a minute. The average public speaking is a mean between these extremes, i.e., 120 words a minute, or two words per second. A dexterous penman can make 180 separate simple strokes or dots in a minute. The required system of shorthand must, therefore, represent two words by three strokes (or dots) a second, or by one and a half strokes per word.

LORD PALMERSTON'S EXPERIENCE

The story is told of an enterprising reporter who had heard that Lord Palmerston, the famous English statesman (1784-1865) was to be present at an archery meeting in a small village in Hampshire, and he accordingly travelled down there and waited for something to happen. Lord Palmerston's task was to distribute prizes to some half-dozen blushing young ladies, and the whole company present did not number much more than a score. His lordship performed the task with his usual grace and good humour, giving the young ladies a paternal pat on the head, but making only the most commonplace observations. The reporter waited anxiously until, to his horror, he saw the proceedings brought to a close without a speech from the Premier. This was more than he could stand. He rushed from his corner to Lord Palmerston, who was getting out of the room as fast as he could, and breathlessly exclaimed: "My lord, I beg your pardon, but really this will not do!" "What do you mean?" was the reply of the astonished statesman. "Why", exclaimed the reporter, "you have made no speech! I've come all the way from London to report it, and I really must have a speech of some kind!" he exclaimed agitatedly. Whereupon it is on record that the good tempered old gentleman turned back and detained the audience for 20 minutes while he gave them a genial dissertation on the good qualities of English women in general, and Hampshire lasses in particular.

"THIS FISH WON'T BITE"

On another occasion, however, he made up for this. He was attending an agricultural dinner, and saw a large gathering of reporters, for the times were critical, and a speech of his certain to be valuable. But he had made up his mind not to speak—no man knew better when to hold his tongue—and accordingly he slyly sent down to the "gentlemen of the press" a slip of paper, on which, in his bold, round hand, were the words: "This fish won't bite!"

The pen can produce 1½ strokes per word uttered at the rate of 120 per minute. The pen is therefore ahead of the speaker, and in a burst of oratory could record 200 words a minute.

Isaac Pitman was a clerk, and later taught a school at Barton-on-Humber (1832-36), and at Wotton-under-Edge, where he turned his attention to the popularising of shorthand and issued through Samuel Bagster, the publisher, his *Stenographic Sound Hand* (1837).

Copies of his second edition were put into circulation simultaneously with the introduction of the penny post in 1840. Dismissed from Wotton because he had joined the New (Swedenborgian) Church, he conducted a school at Bath (1839-43). Henceforth, his career is the history of the development of shorthand and spelling reform. He wrote, travelled, and lectured in its interest, his working day commonly lasting from 6 a.m. till 10 p.m., with three hours for meals and relaxation.

A PHENOMENAL OUTPUT

In 1842 he brought out the *Phonetic Journal.* In 1845, premises were opened in London for the sale of Pitman's publications. In recognition of his exertions, he was presented with £350 and a marble timepiece in 1862, and at a phonographic jubilee meeting in 1887, he was presented with a marble bust of himself. At the beginning of his career he had a small income, part of which he spent advertising his system of shorthand. Up till 1890 he had issued from his Phonetic Institute, Bath, 150 different shorthand books, and his *Phonographic Teacher* was selling at the rate of 150,000 annually. From the date of issue 1,370,000 had been sold. There were also 84 shorthand associations, and a National Phonographic Society. At the turn of the 20th century, it was estimated that about 95 per cent of reporters in England, the British Colonies, and America used Pitman's system, which had been adapted to the Welsh, French, German, Italian, Spanish, Dutch, Japanese and Malagasy languages. It was then estimated that its practitioners all over the world numbered more than 500,000. Pitman's phonography was adapted to the Japanese language in 1879.

[Mr. Lack did not have the opportunity to continue his interesting series on Australian editors and journalists He died suddenly less than a month after delivering the above paper.]